

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A method of extending the life of the rhizome of a banana or plantain plant, for use of the rhizome as a conduit for systemic inducers, comprises allowing growth of suckers on both sides of the mother plant. One of the suckers is selected as a daughter plant which is allowed to mature into a successive mother plant while the other sucker plant is pruned periodically to prevent this other sucker plant from maturing into a producing plant. By maintaining suckers (selected daughter and alternate sucker) on opposite sides of the mother plant in a viable state, the rhizome of the mother plant remains alive. When systemic inducers including nutrients and disease resisting microorganismic substances are introduced into the rhizome of the mother plant, these materials are efficiently distributed into the mother plant, daughter plant and sucker plant.